(iv) Harmonization of Penal provisions considering the gravity of the offence.

(c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a Group to review the various provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 for considering the representations and suggestions received from various organisations.

News-item "What's Wrong with our Blood"

2141. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "What's wrong with our blood", which appeared in the Times of India, dated 19th September, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the aforesaid news-item ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian Red Cross Society had offered to provide 1000 units of blood among other support to its counterpart, American Red Cross during the September 11 crisis in New York. The American Red Cross, while appreciating such offers from various Red Cross Societies from all over the world declined assistance as they were meeting their own demands.

There are no reliable tests available for detection of carrier state of malaria and hence in United States and some other developed countries, the donors with history of having had malaria in the past or those who have been in malaria endemic regions such as India are deferred as per their national guidelines and US FDA requirements.

News-item "Nicholas Piramal asks DCI to order withdrawal of Grastim Stocks"

2142. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Nicholas Piramal asks DCI to order withdrawal of Grastim stocks", which appeared in the Financial Express, dated 21st September, 2001;